

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Carnival 60 begins this coming Saturday with the Torch Parade



ORANJESTAD -- Newly arrived visitors staying through Sunday have the opportunity to enjoy the first major event of Aruba's Golden Jubilee Carnival, this coming Saturday evening, January 11, from 8:00 PM until 2:00 AM. - the Fakkeloptocht - or Torch Parade.

This is the first of dozens of joyful parades, pageants and parties that comprise Aruba's Carnival season which will end on March 4. The processions will fill the streets of Oranjestad with music and costumed dancers. This year, being an important landmark carnival, organizers anticipate exception participation.

The Torch Parade is

particularly popular as islanders are ready to welcome Carnival, and this year is a very important landmark for the island tradition. It is a delightful, casual affair, with most groups garbed in colorful themed tee-shirts that have been artfully decorated.

The logo tee shirts declare group affiliations and are usually accompanied by wild and amusing hats and accessories. It is an evening when all are welcome to join the fun and dance in the streets unfettered. There will also be



a chance to meet last year's Carnival royalty, who will soon abdicate in favor of this year's contest winners competing for these coveted titles of Queens, Kings of Tumba, Calypso and Roadmarch, and Prince and Pancho (the jester.)

The parade will start at the western outskirts of Oranjestad on the L.G. Smith Boulevard.

Groups will gather and organize on the service road across from Valero station.

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Today's Lotto will pay 1.4 million to a lucky winner



ORANJESTAD -- Tonight, players of the Aruba Lotto's Mini Mega have a chance of winning the whopping prize of 1.4 million Aruban florins if they play the Mini Mega and the Mega Plus combination.

Last Friday's draw of the Mini Mega had as winning numbers 08-14-13-16 and the Mega Ball was 12. Unfortunately, no one had these numbers, hence there was no winner and the jackpot grew to Afls. 1,050,000, and with the Mega Plus one can win an additional Afls 350,000 which brings the total draw to Afls. 1,400,000 for tonight, January 7, 2014!

With only 5 Aruban florins a ticket can participate in tonight's millionaire draw and with an additional 2 Aruban florins, you get the Mega Plus ticket. This gives you the opportunity of becoming a millionaire with Aruba's Lotto. Aruba's Lotto supports sports across the island!

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Sub-zero arctic blast strikes US



CHICAGO (AFP) - Dangerously cold arctic air swept across a huge swath of the United States yesterday, making travel treacherous, forcing schools to close and prompting officials to plead with residents to stay indoors.

A shift in a weather pattern known as the "polar vortex" triggered a drastic drop in temperatures to lows not seen in two decades, and coincided with wind chill warnings in much of the east of the country.

Comertown, Montana recorded the lowest wind chill

value so far at -63 Fahrenheit (-53 Celsius) while North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota were not much warmer.

For comparison, this was significantly colder than the South Pole, which recorded a wind chill reading of -29 Fahrenheit (-34 Celsius).

Even the typically temperate Deep South was feeling the chill with a hard freeze warning threatening crops and livestock.

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Carnival 60 begins this coming Saturday ...

Continued from page 1



The parade will wend its way along the shorefront to the Las Americas traffic circle fronting Cas di Cultura and then turn up the Vondellaan to the Wilhelminastraat (at the Banco di Caribe) to end on the Avenida Milio Croes, at Cricket Field.

This route will afford island visitors the opportunity to view

the parade early in the evening. Combine the event with discovering on of the many fine restaurants along the route, some of which will provide a front row seat to the festivities. Make an evening of it in Oranjestad and enjoy this authentic bit of island culture, a memorable way to top off a night out.

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N.V. ELMAR pleased with first phase of Solar Park at the Airport

ORANJESTAD -- Just recently Director of N.V. ELMAR, Robert Henriquez, together with the company's Business Development Officer, Elthon Lampe, visited the Solar Park project at the Queen Beatrix Airport. This project is in its first phase of construction. The project is an investment of 11 million US Dollars. They were able to negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the PFix Company. The PFix Company in turn is working together with ALBO and Croon (both local companies). These local companies are experts in construction and in the installation of electricity.

The solar Park, in essence, is an expression of the vision of sustainability of Aruba. The added benefit of the project is that it will provide shade for automobiles parked at the airport.

The construction is in its first phase and consists of as many as seven phases. The roof for the solar panels at the airport parking lot is the first of its type in our region and will definitely become an icon in the Caribbean, according to Robert Henriquez. N.V. ELMAR is very pleased to have such a project under their supervision, which will definitely have an added value for our airport.

According to Henriquez, the project is expected to generate a great deal of electricity to cover all the consumption for the entire airport during the day in its peak production. Calculations indicate that the solar panels will generate more than 3 Megawatts of power, which is the equivalent of the consumption for 500 homes.

The solar park is definitely a symbol reflecting Aruba's commitment to sustainable energy.



Robert Henriquez

ELMAR's role is one of supervision of the project and eventually will interconnect the park with ELMAR's grid.

According to the developers, the park will be totally functional in the month of May 2014.

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Clinton Whitfield Foundation donates to local projects



ORANJESTAD -- Recently the Clinton Whitfield Foundation (CWF) made a donation to four organizations

working on the behalf of our community either on behalf of those in need or for children.

During a very friendly, interesting and educative evening, all the organizations give a resume of their voluntary work in the community.

The Clinton Whitfield Foundation was established June 3rd, 2005 by Mrs. Mosa Whitfield in honor of her deceased husband, Clinton Whitfield. They created a fund to accomplish goals set by them.

This year the following organizations received donations from the Funds created by the Clinton Whitfield Foundation: United Forces Foundation for their "Un Pasco Pa Bo," project, The Red Cross for their "Paranda di Bochincha" project, sports clubs SV Estudiantes and Sport Club United.

The Board of CWF was extremely pleased to help different organizations on the island with a donation.

The Board of the CWF consists of: Harold Rereira, president, Giontonio Muller, treasurer, Joyce Pereira, secretary, Carlos Albertus, member, Indra Anthony-Pereira, member, Melanie Kelly, member and Daisy Lopez, member.

The Board expressed their satisfaction for the work being done by the organizations that received support from them. Their efforts and volunteer work towards our young people and those in need is very noble and necessary. They trust that the organizations will continue their excellent work and wish them success.

US-based Caribbean newspaper names Sparrow among People-of-the-Year



Slinger Francisco aka The Mighty Sparrow

NEW YORK – A Caribbean publication here has named several Caribbean personalities, including calypso legend the Mighty Sparrow, pop-singing super star Rihanna, winner of The Voice reality show, Tessanne Chin and the world's fastest man Usain Bolt, among its top 10 "Caribbean People of the Year."

In its January 3-9 edition, the Brooklyn-based weekly newspaper, 'Caribbean People' said Sparrow, whose real name is Slinger Francisco, is "one of the greatest entertainers of all times."

"Known as the 'Calypso King of the World', he is one of the best known and most successful calypsonians," it said of Sparrow, who is convalescing in a rehabilitation center in Queens, New York. He has been hospitalised for the past three months after going into a coma on September 22.

According to the Brook-

lyn-based Trinidad and Tobago Weekly, Sparrow took a break from therapy over the Christmas holiday, at the High Land Health Care Center in Queens, New York, and "spoke for a long time and even sang".

"Tell my fans and the people of T&T they better watch out because Sparrow is coming to town," Trinidad and Tobago Weekly quoted him as saying. "And I'm coming out dancing, people think it will be Santa; but, when they look closely, they will see it is Sparrow," he added.

Sparrow, 78, who has been performing for more than four decades has been having health challenges for the past three years.

These include undergoing surgery in 2010 to treat a right inguinal hernia that had caused him to cut short performances in Trinidad and Tobago and in the United States because of excruciating pain while on stage.



Lots of interest for upcoming Café the Plaza Quiz Night Series

ORANJESTAD -- The new Quiz Night Series at Café the Plaza is starting on Tuesday, January 7, and judging from the many enquiries, it will be a full house once again. Sponsored by Aruba Wine and Dine, it is a fun event during which everyone's knowledge of a wide array of subjects is severely tested. Sometimes the questions are easy, sometimes really, really hard. A music round as well as a picture round are on the menu every single week. The series of seven Tuesday evenings is played by teams. Some of their names keep popping up regularly as winners, such as Synergy, Purgatory, Bier Hier and the team of Jan-Hein. But now and then a surprise winner comes forward: it could be



your team!

Snacks and prizes, with grand prizes for the overall winners after two months of playing, make the Tuesday nights into a festive happening. So get a team together and come and play at Café the

Plaza at the Renaissance Marketplace. Come early, as the house fills up really fast: during the last series there were sometimes 13 teams battling it out! The Quiz Nights start at 8 pm sharp.

Counsellor from Indian Embassy visits Aruba



Recently the Counsellor from Indian Embassy at Caracas Mr. C. B. Thapliyal visited Aruba. During his visit, Mr. Thapliyal met the director and deputy director of Foreign Affairs in Aruba to discuss ideas of common interest in the field of trade, trainings and other mutual relations. Mr. Thapliyal also met the Indian community members and the board members of Indian Association of Aruba in a cocktail evening hosted by IAA for this purpose. Finally Mr. & Mrs. Thapliyal were recognized with a kwihi souvenir clock from Aruba as a memory of his visit to Aruba. Photos above show Mr. & Mrs. Gupta presenting gift to Embassy Counsellor Mr. & Mrs. Thapliyal; IAA Board with Mr. & Mrs. Thapliyal and Group of lovely Indian Ladies.

US: Mexican cartel leader arrested in the Netherlands



Jose Rodrigo Arechiga-Gamboa

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A Mexican man described as an alleged leader of the powerful Sinaloa drug syndicate has been detained in the Netherlands on a US arrest warrant, US authorities said on the weekend.

Jose Rodrigo Arechiga-Gamboa, also known as "Chino Antrax" and "Norberto Sicares-Garcia," was arrested last week at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, the office of the US attorney for the southern district of California, based in San Diego, said in a statement.

A federal grand jury in San Diego returned a sealed indictment on December 20 charging Arechiga-Gamboa with conspiracy to import and distribute controlled substances. An arrest warrant was issued the same day.

Arechiga-Gamboa was arrested at the airport "under a

fraudulent name as he deplaned from KLM Flight 636 from Mexico City, Mexico to Amsterdam," the statement read.

US officials are seeking his extradition to face charges in southern California.

The main leader of the Sinaloa cartel, based in the western Mexican state of the same name, is Joaquin "El Chapo" (Shorty) Guzman.

Guzman escaped from a Mexican prison in 2001 and is now the drug trafficker most wanted by US officials. He is also considered by Forbes as the most powerful criminal on the planet.

More than 77,000 people have been killed in Mexico in connection with organized crime since now former president Felipe Calderon launched a nationwide war against the drug cartels after taking office in 2006.

Monday was second warmest January day on record in the Netherlands

HILVERSUM -- The temperature reached 14.5 Celsius at the De Bilt weather station near Hilversum yesterday, making it the warmest January 6 since records began in 1901.

Yesterday is also the second warmest January day ever. The current record dates to 1993 when a temperature of 15.1 Celsius was recorded in De Bilt.

Weather forecasters say a new record for January 7 is

likely to be set today. At this time of year it is normally around 5 Celsius.

So far this winter there have been just five nights when the temperature dipped below 0. By this time of year on average there have been 15 nights of frost.

Although the temperature will drop later in the week, there is still no sign of frost and snow in the long term forecasts.

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Church: Martyred bishop should be patron saint of abuse victims

THE HAGUE (AFP) -- A Dutch Catholic bishop burned alive in 1937 by Japanese troops for protecting Chinese girls from rape may become the patron saint of sex abuse victims worldwide.

Frans Wiertz, who is bishop of Roermond in the southeastern Netherlands, has sent a dossier to the Vatican requesting martyred bishop Frans Schraven be beatified, one step away from becoming a saint, the bishopric said on its website yesterday.

Bishop Wiertz "suggests that he be considered as the patron saint of victims of sexual abuse", it said.

Dutch-born Schraven was killed in October 1937 in Zhengding, 160 miles (260 kilometers) south of Beijing, for not handing over Chinese girls the invading Japanese army wanted to turn into sex slaves also known as "comfort women".

The 200 girls were among around 5,000 people who had sought refuge at Schraven's bishopric soon after the start of the the Sino-Japanese war.

According to witness accounts, when Japanese troops came to ask for the girls, Schraven said: "You can kill me if you want but you will never get what you ask for."



Bishop Frans Schraven

The soldiers returned hours later, handcuffed Schraven and eight other priests, doused them in petrol and burned them alive.

"Fortunately there are people in the Church who chose the right side, who condemned abuse and who sacrificed their lives when it was necessary," Wiertz wrote.

"There have in recent years been many reports about abuse within the Church. It's shameful to see that even the faithful can be guilty of such things,"

he said.

Tens of thousands of people were victims of sexual abuse at the hands of the Roman Catholic church in the Netherlands between 1945 and 2000, with an independent commission identifying 800 alleged perpetrators.

Prolific sexual abuse by priests has shaken the Catholic church in recent years, including a string of paedophile scandals from Austria to the United States.

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Monster waves slam into UK, France after US storm



People watch and photograph enormous waves as they break, on Porthcawl harbour, South Wales, yesterday.

LONDON -- Huge waves have battered southern and western coasts of the UK, as forecasters warn exposed areas could see a fresh round of flooding.

Waves of up to 27ft (8m) were recorded off Land's End, Cornwall.

The environment secretary said seven people had died and

1,700 homes had been flooded in England due to storms and flooding in December and January.

There are currently three severe flood warnings in place in England and travel by road and rail is being hit.



FRANCE, Biarritz : A picture taken on January 6, 2014 in Biarritz, south western France, shows the Grand Plage as a storm brings strong winds. (AFP PHOTO)

Canada plunges into a deep freeze

OTTAWA (AFP) - Extreme cold in Canada yesterday disrupted flights and school classes, caused widespread power outages and created havoc on roads.

Temperatures as low as minus 50 degrees Celsius (-58 Fahrenheit) with a wind chill -- colder than the surface of Mars -- plunged the western Prairies region into a deep freeze, heightening risks of frostbite and hypothermia.

Toronto, Montreal and the capital Ottawa braced for a flash freeze with temperatures forecast to drop as much as 40 degrees in less than 24 hours, after locals awoke to unusually warm temperatures (above freezing) and rain.

Environment Canada warned of "treacherous" travelling conditions.

"Extreme caution is advised for people heading outdoors," the government agency said. "Exposed skin may freeze in less than five minutes."

One in ten flights from Toronto's international airport were cancelled. And hundreds of car accidents in central Ontario and Quebec provinces were blamed on slick roads and fierce winds.

This comes after Toronto area residents continue to recover from an ice storm that left 300,000 hydro customers in the dark over the Christmas holidays.

More than 30,000 residents of the Atlantic island province of Newfoundland meanwhile were still without power after a blizzard knocked out electricity last week. At its peak, the blackout covered the entire island, affecting nearly 200,000 residents.

BETHLEHEM : Palestinian Christian children, dressed up as Santa Claus, sit on the floor in the Church of the Nativity, accepted by Christians as the birth place of Jesus Christ, as faithful flock to the church to celebrate Christian Orthodox Christmas eve, on January 6, 2014, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

(AFP PHOTO)



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Sub-zero arctic blast strikes US

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On the East Coast, a brief lull in the deep freeze greeted commuters, but rainstorms threatened to turn roads and sidewalks into ice rinks overnight as temperatures were expected to plunge.

Deaths blamed on the frigid weather include a worker crushed by a 100-foot (30-meter) pile of salt being prepared to treat roads on Friday, and a 71-year-old woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease who froze to death after getting lost in New York state.

The body of a 90-year-old woman was found face down in the snow next to her car in Ohio Monday morning, the Toledo Blade reported.

At least a dozen other people were reportedly killed in crashes on icy roads, including four people whose sport utility vehicle slid off a rural Minnesota highway and fell into the Mississippi River.

Four Chicago men aged 48 to 63 died of apparent heart attacks while shoveling the snow over the weekend, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The cold snap came after two massive winter storms snarled travel, grounded thousands of flights and dumped as much as two feet (60 centimeters) of snow in the first few days of the year.

More than 3,600 US flights

had been cancelled by Monday afternoon and nearly 5,000 were delayed, according to FlightAware.

The city of Chicago was among scores of municipalities which told parents to keep their children at home rather than risk sending them out into winds so bitter that skin could freeze in a matter of minutes.

The governor of Minnesota cancelled school across the entire state yesterday.

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn declared a state of emergency and called up the National Guard to help rescue stranded motorists as high winds whipped up blinding snow.

Quinn praised the "heroic" efforts of National Guard troops who cleared a 375 vehicle backup and a forestry officer who rescued seven stranded people and two of their pets using a snowmobile.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, officials warned residents to stay indoors and urged schools to shut down as temperatures dropped to -12 Fahrenheit (-24 Celsius), with the wind chill making it feel like -37.

Indianapolis mayor Greg Ballard barred everyone except emergency workers from driving at the height of the storm Sunday and urged residents yesterday to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary.

Spanish minister in Panama to end \$1.6-bn canal row

PANAMA CITY (AFP) - A Spanish cabinet minister launched mediation efforts in Panama yesterday to resolve a \$1.6 billion dispute threatening to halt the expansion of the Central American nation's vital canal.

Public Works Minister Ana Pastor held separate meetings with Panama's president and executives of the Spanish-led consortium that has threatened to stop the project this month unless local authorities pay for the massive cost overruns.

After the two meetings, Pastor said the Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC) consortium wanted to negotiate a way out of the impasse.

"The commitment of GUPC is to resolve everything within the contract and for that reason they will sit down for dialogue. We are trying to reach an agreement that will be good for everybody," Pastor said after talks with Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli.

Martinelli said the consortium and the Panama Canal Authority need to find a solution, even if it means going through international arbitration. "Surely solutions will be found within the meeting. This is a project of global scope for Spain, Panama and the maritime community," he said.

The construction group, which includes Impregilo of Italy, Belgium's Jan de Nul of Belgium and Constructora Urbana of Panama, warned on December 30 that it would suspend work in 21 days if authorities failed to pay for extra "unforeseen" charges.

The expansion project aims to make the 80-kilometer (50-mile) waterway, which handles five percent of global maritime trade, big enough to handle new, giant cargo ships that can carry 12,000 containers.

Currently the canal can handle ships large enough to carry 5,000 containers.

The United States built the canal between 1904 and 1914 and had full control of the waterway until handing it over to Panama in late 1999.

The consortium began work on a third set of larger canal locks in 2009 and expects to complete construction in June 2015, already nine months over the contractual date. Work is about 70 percent complete.

The overall cost of the project has been estimated at \$5.2 billion.

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Schumacher stable but still in critical condition

GRENOBLE (AFP) - Doctors treating Michael Schumacher said yesterday the Formula One legend remained in a stable but critical condition following his life-threatening skiing accident.

Schumacher has been in a medically induced coma since the accident on December 29 in the French ski resort of Meribel.

"The clinical state of Michael Schumacher is considered as stable and is being constantly monitored as he receives medical treatment," a

statement from Grenoble's University Hospital said.

"However, the medical team in charge of his care underlines that they continue to consider Michael's condition as critical."

The team treating Schumacher said they would be giving no details of the treatment the 45-year-old is receiving in order to protect his right to privacy.

"The privacy of the patient demands that we are not going into details of his treatment, and this is why we do not en-

visage any press conferences or statements in the near future."

French prosecutors meanwhile said they would this week brief journalists on their investigation into Schumacher's accident.

A press conference will be held on Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Alpine town of Albertville, local prosecutor Patrick Quincy told AFP.

Investigators are focusing on the retired racer's speed when he fell and slammed his head on a rock on a small off-

piste section, prompting his evacuation by helicopter to Grenoble.

Prosecutors are also looking at whether the limits of the ski runs next to the accident site were correctly marked and whether the rock in question was lying close enough to the piste to require some kind of protection or signage.

They are also examining whether the safety releases on Schumacher's skis operated properly in a probe aimed at determining responsibility for the accident.

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Internet gap between black, white seniors: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - African Americans over the age of 65 are much less likely to spend time online than their white counterparts, according to a study released on Monday.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project survey found that just 45 percent of black seniors are internet users, compared to 63 percent amongst whites.

The study of "African Americans and Technology Use" also found only 30 percent of black seniors had broadband Internet access, compared to 51 percent of whites.

Overall, US blacks continue to lag behind whites in terms of Internet use and access to high-speed broadband at home.

Some 87 percent of whites go on the Internet, compared to 80 percent of African Americans, while 74 percent of

whites had broadband at home compared to 62 percent for blacks.

The study, which analyzed findings from 6,010 American adults including 664 who identify as African American, found a greater parity amongst younger web users however.

Young, college-educated, and higher income blacks were just as likely to use the Internet and have broadband at home.

The survey found African Americans were flocking to micro-blogging site Twitter in greater numbers. Some 22 percent of blacks online use Twitter, compared to 16 percent of whites.

Twitter had also cast a spell on younger African American web users. Forty percent of blacks between 18 and 29 use Twitter, compared to only 28 percent of whites in the same bracket.

Meditation offers slight relief from anxiety: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Meditation may help ease anxiety and depression in certain patients, and in some cases the practice may be as effective as taking anti-depressant medications, said a study Monday.

However, a review of scientific literature on mindfulness meditation published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the effects of meditation are limited.

For instance, little or no evidence could be found of meditation's impact on positive mood, attention, substance use, eating habits, sleep and weight.

Mindfulness meditation is a form of Buddhist self-awareness designed to focus attention -- not judgement -- to the moment at hand, the JAMA study said.

"The evidence suggests that mindfulness meditation programs could help reduce anxiety, depression, and pain in some clinical populations," it said.

"Thus, clinicians should be prepared to talk with their patients about the role that a meditation program could have in addressing psychological stress."

The systematic review and meta-analysis was led by experts at Johns Hopkins University and included 47 randomized clinical trials with 3,515 participants.

Of the thousands of studies the authors found on the topic, just three percent were scientifically rigorous enough to meet the criteria for inclusion in the JAMA re-



ception that mindfulness meditation provided a small but possibly meaningful degree of relief from psychological distress."

The patients who received these benefits did not typically have full-blown anxiety or depression.

Mindfulness meditation is usually practiced for about 30 minutes per day, and emphasizes acceptance of feelings and thoughts without judgment. It also re-

quires body and mind relaxation.

"A lot of people have this idea that meditation means sitting down and doing nothing," said the JAMA study's lead author Madhav Goyal, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"But that's not true. Meditation is an active training of the mind to increase awareness, and different meditation programs approach this in different ways."

view.

Those that were reviewed found some small to moderate benefits, but lacked evidence of leading to better health.

"Contrary to popular belief, the studies overall failed to show much benefit from meditation with regard to relief of suffering or improvement in overall health," said an accompanying commentary by Allan Goroll, a doctor at Harvard University.

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Nissan unveils London black taxi model



LONDON (AFP) - Japanese carmaker Nissan unveiled Monday its version of London's iconic black taxi, a market currently dominated by Chinese firm Geely.

Nissan claims its new 1.6 litre petrol engine taxi will be cleaner than the current diesel cabs being used in the British capital.

"The NV200 cab for London is part of Nissan's global taxi programme, which also encompasses New York, Barcelona and Tokyo. The London version's design is bespoke, reflecting the rich heritage and status of London's black cabs," the company said.

The new cab was first unveiled in August 2012, but after feedback from Mayor Boris Johnson's office it has been redesigned to more closely resemble the black cab "face" with bigger headlights, a prominent taxi sign and a big front grille.

The new cab adheres to the strict regulations governing the capital's black cabs -- known officially as Hackney Carriages -- including the required 25-foot (7.6-metre) turning circle.

The vehicle will be produced at Nissan's existing plant in Barcelona and modifications will be added in Britain, home to the company's huge Sunderland plant.

It will go on sale in London in December priced about £30,000 (49,250 euros, \$36,000).

The company enters the market as the original maker of London's famous black cabs finds a new life.

Chinese auto manufacturer Zhejiang Geely Holding Group last year rescued from bankruptcy what is now known as London Taxi Co.

New Bruce Springsteen album 'High Hopes' goes online



"Wrecking Ball" in 2012 - on their digital players after it briefly leaked out on Amazon.com as an MP3 download last weekend.

Springsteen's label is Columbia Records, a Sony Music Entertainment subsidiary formerly owned by CBS that was behind the surprise online release of Beyonce's eponymous fifth album on December 13. That record is currently enjoying its third

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bruce Springsteen's 13th studio album "High Hopes" went online in the United States Sunday, 10 days before its general release -- and on the 41st anniversary of The Boss's debut outing.

Television network CBS had announced it would host the Internet-only pre-release at www.cbs.com/shows/the_good_wife/springsteen after the conclusion of this week's episode of "The Good Wife" at around 10:00 pm (0300 GMT Monday) in a unique tie-in with the top-rated legal drama.

But American fans of the New Jersey-born rock 'n' roll voice of blue-collar America were delighted to discover the audio stream went online earlier in the evening -- and initial reviews were upbeat.

"By the time that track draws to its haunting conclusion, you'll likely find that despite the rocky start, the album's familiar themes of hope, redemption and love's ability to trump adversity have worked their magic the way they do on any good Springsteen release," wrote Pete Chi-anka at Blogness on The Edge of Town, a blog dedicated to the 64-year-old rock legend.

As a CBS spokeswoman told AFP, the online stream is available only in the United States. In Paris, only the title track -- released as a video a few weeks ago -- could be heard on the website; the other 11 songs came up as "currently not available."

Some lucky fans already have "High Hopes" -- Springsteen's first album since

week atop the Billboard 200 album chart, having sold more than 1.3 million copies.

Eagerly anticipated, "High Hopes" is a mix of cover versions, studio outtakes and recordings that Springsteen -- who has concerts upcoming in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand -- has called "music I always felt needed to be released."

Nine of the tracks feature Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello, and two include the late Clarence Clemons, the much-loved saxophonist in Springsteen's E Street Band.

And one track, "Down in the Hole," has Springsteen's children on backing vocals -- including his youngest Sam, who turned 20 on Sunday.

Weakened 'polar vortex' blamed for N. American chill



PARIS (AFP) - The bitter chill gripping North America is a result of Arctic air that has spilled southwards, and global warming may be a cause, an expert said on Monday.

Arctic air is normally penned in at the roof of the world by a powerful circular wind called the polar vortex, said Dim Coumou, a senior scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) near Berlin.

When the vortex weakens, the air starts heading southwards, bringing exceptional snow and chill to middle latitudes.

The weather shift is also helped by changes in a high altitude wind called the jet stream.

This convection, which usually encircles the northern hemisphere in a robust and predictable fashion, starts to zigzag, creating loops of extremely cold weather or unseasonably mild weather, depending on the location.

"We've seen a strong meandering of the jetstream, and the cold air associated with the polar vortex has been moving southwards, and in this case over the eastern parts of Canada and the United States, bringing this extreme cold weather," said Coumou.

The phenomenon has occurred repeatedly in recent winters, he noted.

What drives the polar vortex is the difference in temperature between the Arctic and mid latitudes, said Coumou.

Once sharp, this differential has blurred in recent years as the Arctic -- where temperatures are rising at about twice the global average -- warms up, he said.

"The reason why we see these strong meanderings is still not fully settled, but it's clear that the Arctic has been warming very rapidly. We have good data on this. Arctic temperatures have risen

much more than other parts of the globe."

Last month, European scientists reported that the volume of sea ice in November was around 50 percent greater compared with a year earlier, following a recovery in the Arctic summer.

Despite this bounceback, sea ice remains at near-record documented lows and its overall trend is one of retreat, they said.

Coumou cautioned that Arctic sea ice "is just one of the important factors" behind disruption of the polar vortex.

"Other factors include snow cover, stratospheric warming events or other short-lived phenomena," he said.

Other specialists said the link between warming and the spillover of Arctic air was still debated.

"There is no consensus," said Francois Gourand, a forecaster at Météo France, the French national meteorological agency.

"The melting of sea ice can have an impact on atmospheric circulation but these effects are complex and hard to pin down," he said.

Netflix to stream "ultra" high-def shows to LG televisions

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - LG on Monday announced an alliance with Netflix to stream "ultra high-definition" shows to new televisions being released by the South Korean consumer electronics giant.

The announcement came on the eve of the formal opening of an international Consumer Electronics Show due to be packed with announcements about vibrant new screens displaying content about four times richer than what is seen on most current high-definition televisions.

"We've been on an adventure with LG to create the



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Huawei aims to sell 80 mn smartphones in 2014

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Chinese telecoms giant Huawei said Monday it aims to sell 80 million smartphones in 2014, as it boosts its brand name worldwide and makes a new push for US consumers.

The Chinese firm also unveiled its new large-screen smartphone, or phablet, which will be sold in the US market and compete against devices like Samsung's Galaxy Note.

The new Ascend 2 Mate can outperform rivals with



high-speed performance, a large 6.1-inch screen and battery life of two days even with heavy use, Huawei Consumer chief executive Richard Yu said in unveiling the device at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Huawei is battling for the number three spot in global smartphone sales, but has only limited presence in the United States.

A unique feature of the Ascend, said Yu, is "reverse charging," to allow it to be used to top up batteries on rival smartphones which might be running low on power. He demonstrated that by connecting an iPhone to the Ascend with a cable at the Las Vegas press event.

Huawei, which has faced

criticism in the United States over the extent of its ties to the Chinese government and military, is seeking to boost its brand presence among consumers, moving away from manufacturing for other labels.

"We want to be a great consumer brand in the world," Yu

said.

The new phablet will replace the Ascend Mate unveiled a year ago and sold in some 40 markets, not including the United States.

Yu said the phone has an upgraded front-facing cameras for "selfies," and a new "intuitive" interface that simplifies the Android operating system.

The new phone supports all major mobile networks and uses high-speed LTE technology to deliver the fastest Internet connections.

But he said the biggest concern among consumers was battery life, and Huawei responded with the longest-lasting of any manufacturer.

"This can work for two days, even for heavy users," he said.

Oil prices slip as Libya ups output

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices extended last week's sharp losses yesterday on flat demand for crude and amid higher Libyan production, analysts said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for delivery in February, dropped 42 cents to \$93.54 a barrel after rising earlier in the day.

Brent North Sea crude for February eased two cents to \$106.87 a barrel in late London deals.

WTI had fallen by \$1.43 on Friday, ending the week down more than \$6.

"Everyone is talking about how this year is going to be better but if you look at the data from the bigger countries like (the) US and China, they are all trickling down slightly," said Kelly Teoh, market strategist at IG Markets. "You have all these countries that want to increase production but the demand is stabilising or flat at best," she told AFP.

In Libya, oil output is in-

creasing after its government last week convinced residents in the town of Ubari to end their five-month blockade of Al-Sharara oilfield to obtain a more even distribution of oil revenues.

The oilfield's output reached 207,000 barrels per day (bpd) on Monday, compared with 60,000 when production resumed on Saturday, an NOC spokesman told AFP.

Meanwhile, in Khartoum, Sudan and South Sudan agreed yesterday during a visit to Juba by President Omar al-Bashir to consider setting up a joint force to protect vital oilfields, his foreign minister said.

"Sudan and South Sudan are in consultations about the deployment of a mixed force to protect the oilfields in the South," Ali Ahmed Karti said, adding that Juba had come up with the idea.

The proposed deployment would cover all oilfields, including those located along the border between the two countries, said Karti.

Cigarette sales drop by 7.6% in France in 2013

PARIS (AFP) - Sales of cigarettes dropped by 7.6 percent in France last year amid the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes and the impact of high taxes, tobacco shop owners said yesterday.

The business newspaper Les Echos put the drop at 7.7 percent to 47.5 million cigarettes, while other sources said preliminary data pointed to a drop in sales of between 7.4 and 7.6 percent.

Pascal Montredon, the head of the French association of tobacco shop owners, blamed the drop on sales to recent tax hikes.

Later this month the third tax hike in a little over one year will go into effect, having added 80 centimes (\$1.10) to a pack of cigarettes. That will take the price of the most popular brand to 7.00 euros and the cheapest to 6.50 euros.

Montredon said the high prices had encouraged the expansion of illegal imports, which he estimated as accounting for nearly one in four cigarettes smoked.

The growing popularity of electronic cigarettes, which for the moment are tolerated in many places where smoking is banned, "must have had an impact, but not as important as the parallel market," he added.

Some 80 percent of the cost of a pack of cigarettes in France is due to taxes.

An electronic cigarette electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) is a battery-powered device which simulates tobacco smoking. It generally uses a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution. Some solutions contain a mixture of nicotine and flavourings, while others release a flavoured vapor without nicotine.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

LUKE	IFSO
PANIC	DOLLS
TRIAL	EXUDE
AGO	AKA
SENTIN	APES
ERIC	CS
LAVA	FLICKA
LE	NEA
SINAI	INLET
ACORN	MALLS
EMMA	SPAT



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Nissan to build engine plant near Rio

RESENDE (AFP) - Auto giant Nissan will build an engine plant at its industrial complex in Resende in Rio de Janeiro state, Renault-Nissan chief executive Carlos Ghosn said yesterday.

"It is the first time that I've visited the plant, which will build the Nissan March and Nissan Versa models," he told reporters at the complex in Resende, which is 140 kilometers (90 miles) west of Rio.

He said the engine plant would be inaugurated in the first half of this year.

The engine factory, which required a \$60 million investment, will churn out 200,000 four-cylinder 1.6 flexfuel engines a year and will create 200 direct jobs, Ghosn said.

Japan's Nissan, which is partly owned by France's Renault, is one of the key sponsors of the World Cup, which will be held in Brazil in June-July.

"Brazil is a strategic market and that's why we are announcing construction of an engine plant," Ghosn said.

The Resende complex, now nearing completion, employs 1,500 workers and will have more than 2,000 in the second half of this year, with the aim of producing 200,000 vehicles a year.

Nissan aims to raise its share of the Brazilian auto market from a little over two percent last year to five percent in 2016, the Nissan chief said.



JAPAN, Tokyo : Japanese businessmen buy decorative bamboo rakes as lucky charms to "rake in" good fortune, as they attend a ceremony to pray for a good business year at Kanda shrine in Tokyo on January 6, 2014. The ceremony was held to mark the first day of business after the New Year's holidays. (AFP PHOTO)



Current as of:
01/06/2014

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.65	1.67	1.69
Britain	GBP	2.85	2.90	2.96
Switzerland	CHF	196.52	197.24	198.04
Netherlands	EUR	240.07	242.26	244.69
Sweden	SEK	26.33	27.05	27.85
Denmark	DKK	31.52	32.24	33.04
Norway	NOK	27.90	28.62	29.42
Japan	JPY	168.73	170.27	171.98

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WASHINGTON : This January 6, 2014 photo taken in Washington, DC shows the logo for the online gaming company Zynga. The virtual currency Bitcoin jumped back over \$1,000 yesterday after online gaming company Zynga began a test operation to accept Bitcoin in some of its games. Zynga said in a posting on Reddit over the weekend that it is now accepting in-game purchases in seven of its online games, including FarmVille 2, CityVille, and Hidden Shadows, through the Bitcoin processor BitPay. Zynga called the move a test "in response to Bitcoin's rise in popularity around the world." (AFP PHOTO)

COMICS

PICKLES



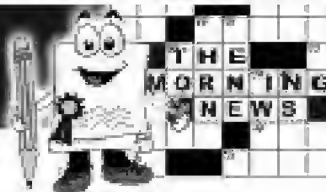
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5 Ways
10 OT book
11 Resounds
13 Sardine holders
14 Pooh's pal
15 Mollusks
17 ATM user's code
18 Parts of ft.
19 Pleased
20 Pursue quarry
23 Hockey scores
24 Humorous people
25 Corn holder
26 Rescue worker (abbr.)
27 Oval-shaped pill
30 Reviles
32 British boarding school
34 Lodger
35 London gallery
36 Pays a landlord
37 Languid

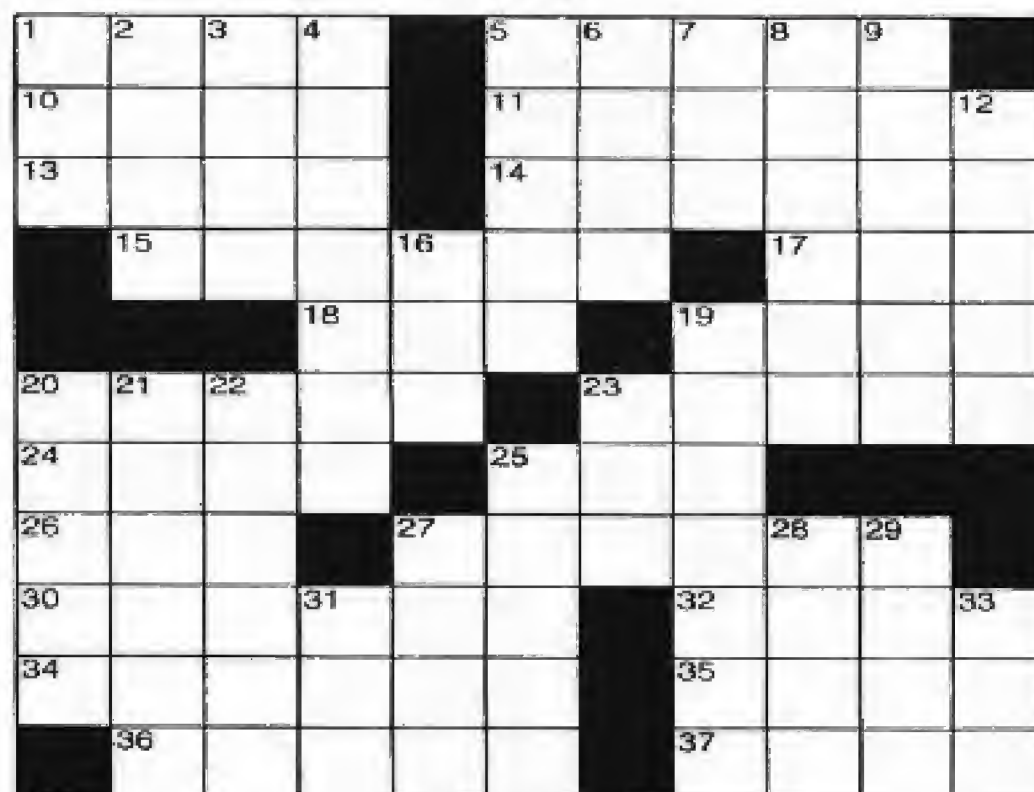
DOWN

- 1 Vampire
2 Fifi's friends
3 Former capital of West Germany
4 Attacks
5 Lemon skins
6 RAF heroes
7 "Love ___ neighbor"
8 Commotion
9 Continuing

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- story
12 Posts a letter
16 Pen filler
19 Fancy glassware
20 Sauna session result
21 Lumber-jack's shout
22 Bring into harmony
23 Grand Old Party (abbr.)
25 Playbill lists
27 Lincoln's coin
28 List shortener (2 wds.)
29 Dorothy's dog
31 Hearst's
Simeon
33 Just discovered



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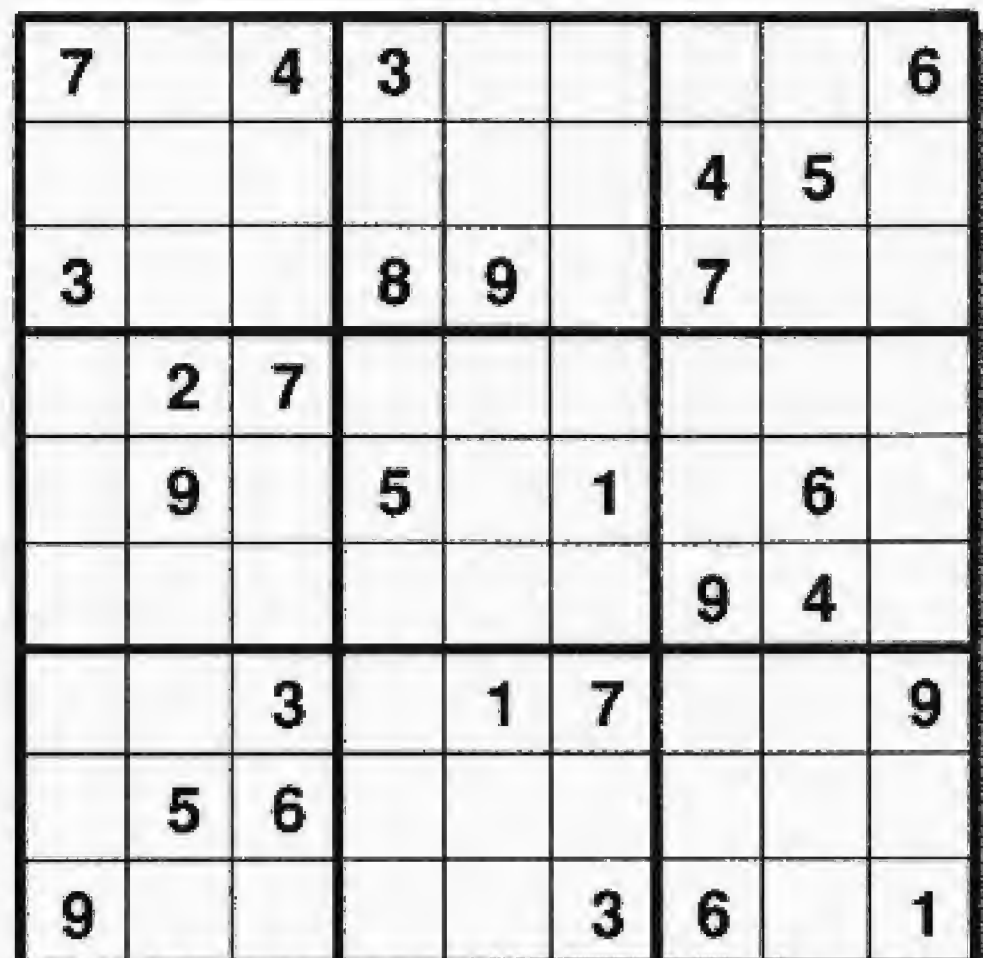
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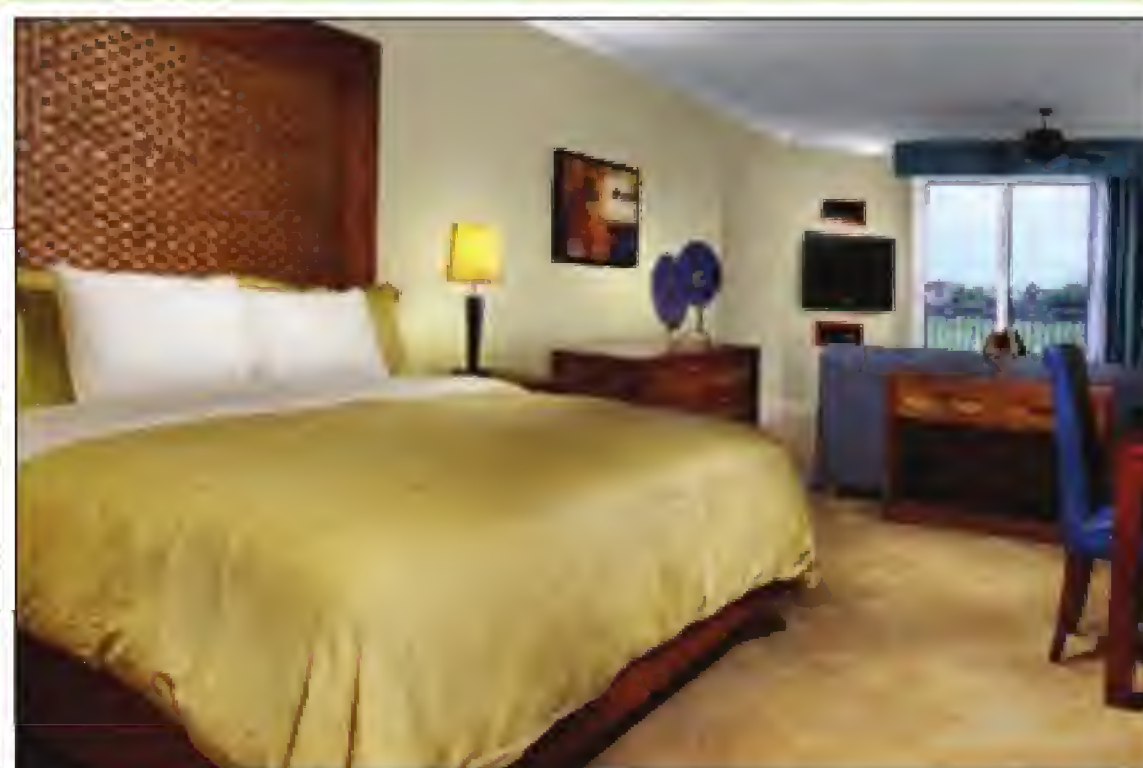


SOLUTION

1	8	9	6	5	7	2	3	4
4	6	8	2	9	5	1	7	3
6	2	5	1	8	3	7	9	4
8	7	8	2	9	1	5	6	3
2	9	3	1	6	8	7	4	5
9	6	1	8	7	5	2	3	4
3	1	2	7	8	9	5	6	4
5	9	7	4	1	6	8	2	3
9	8	9	5	2	6	7	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

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heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Ronaldo dedicates double to Eusebio



MADRID (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo dedicated his two goals in Real Madrid's 3-0 win over Celta Vigo on Monday to Portuguese legend Eusebio, who died at the age of 71 on Sunday.

Before the game at the Santiago Bernabeu a minute's silence was held alongside a video showing Eusebio with Ronaldo and other Real Madrid greats such as Alfredo di Stefano.

And Ronaldo welcomed the tributes that have been made to the man nicknamed the "Black Panther".

"I want to thank everyone, especially to all the people in Spain for the homage they have paid to Eusebio. For the Portuguese it is very important to feel the warmth shown by the Spanish people," said Ronaldo.

"He was someone who was very close to me and obviously my goals today were dedicated to him."

"He helped me a lot with the national team and he is an example for us. It is very sad that we have lost one of the greatest players of all time."

Victory moved Real back to within five points of Barcelona and Atletico Madrid at the top of La Liga.

However, the scoreline

was flattering to Real as Celta passed up a host of clear-cut chances before Karim Benzema opened the scoring 23 minutes from time.

Ronaldo then took centre stage as he swept home late crosses from Dani Carvajal and Gareth Bale to take his tally for the season to 29.

And the former Manchester United man also revealed publicly for the first time that he will attend the ceremony where the winner of the Ballon d'Or for 2013 will be announced in Zurich on January 13.

Despite being named alongside Franck Ribery and Lionel Messi as the three finalists for the prize, Ronaldo had originally said he wouldn't attend the event in Zurich following comments from FIFA president Sepp Blatter criticising his manner of behaving on the field.

"Yes, I will go to the ceremony," he said.

"I don't know if it is fair whether I win, or whether it is Ribery or Messi."

"I always try to do my job in the same way and help Real Madrid by scoring goals. If I win then it will be great, but if I don't then my life will continue and I will remain the same person."

England's Walcott out of World Cup

LONDON (AFP) - England forward Theo Walcott will miss this year's World Cup in Brazil after being ruled out for at least six months with a knee injury, his club, Arsenal, said Monday.

Walcott suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament of his left knee during Arsenal's 2-0 FA Cup win at home to arch north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

An Arsenal statement said Walcott is "expected to be out for at least six months, therefore missing the remainder of the (English) season and the World Cup in Brazil in the summer".

The 24-year-old Walcott jarred his knee towards the end of the match making a tackle and was carried from the field.

Whilst on a stretcher, Walcott was pelted by coins and plastic bottles, among other objects, from the away end.

Earlier on Monday and before the extent of his injury was made public, the Football Association (FA), the English game's governing body, said Walcott would not face disciplinary action for making a '2-0' gesture from his stretcher that appeared to be aimed at Spurs fans.

World Cup hope Rossi suffers ligament damage

MILAN (AFP) - Italy striker Giuseppe Rossi has suffered ligament damage to his troublesome right knee but not a rupture of the cruciate as feared, his Serie A club Fiorentina announced on Monday.

woodwork twice.

"There was only one point between us and we were only five points clear of the bottom three," said the 46-year-old coach.

"Atalanta had a few scoring chances in the second half but overall I don't think we gave too many chances away. We should have defended better, but Atalanta are a strong side and (goalkeeper) Christian Abbiati did well."

Mario Balotelli, recovering from flu, started on the bench with Alessandro Matri spearheading the attack in Allegri's preferred 4-3-2-1 formation, which also featured midfielder Bryan Cristante.

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Rousseff says Brazil will meet Cup challenges

Cont. from pg 16

"Yet they are the only country who have had such a long time -- seven years -- to prepare."

The tournament kicks off June 12 with a match in Sao Paulo between five-time champions Brazil and Croatia.

But the build-up has been plagued by construction delays and spiraling costs, as well as civil unrest over the billions being spent on the tournament as well as the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Rousseff, who was booed along with Blatter when she attended last June's Confederations Cup dressrehearsal, responded by insisting Brazil will get it right on the night.

"Brazilians start 2014 confident in our hosting," she said.

"In Brazil, the Cup will be at home, as this is the land of

football," she concluded.

"The tourists will have the opportunity to get to know this multicultural and resilient country," the leftist leader added.

"Everyone who comes to Brazil will be well received," she said. "We are a happy, welcoming people."

Blatter said in his interview that he was optimistic the tournament would go well, despite several stadia still yet to be completed.

A double fatality in late November at the Sao Paulo arena staging the opening match put back the completion schedule and tests will only take place there in mid-April.

There have also been construction worker deaths in the Amazonian city of Manaus on two occasions, as well as in the capital city Brasilia.

FIFA originally had insisted all 12 venues had to be ready by December 31, but was compelled to drop the deadline after it became clear that almost half the venues would not meet it.

The specter of further social unrest also hangs over the event, despite most Brazilians saying they back the event itself.

Blatter insists security will be state of the art, and said in his Swiss interview that "I believe that Brazilians will not attack football directly. This is the sport's home, it's a religion."

Kaka surpasses century as Milan rout Atalanta



MILAN (AFP) - Brazilian forward Kaka boosted his World Cup hopes by scoring his 100th and 101st goals for AC Milan in a welcome 3-0 win over Atalanta at the San Siro on Monday.

Kaka is one of several Europe-based stars hoping to nail a place in Luiz Felipe Scolari's squad and did his chances a world of good with two well-taken goals that helped move struggling Milan up two places to 11th.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri, who on Sunday confirmed his departure from the club at the end of the season, had labelled the game a relegation dogfight and was relieved after Atalanta rattled the

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Veteran Jagr to lead Czechs at Sochi

PRAGUE (AFP) - New Jersey Devils veteran star Jaromir Jagr will lead the Czech Republic ice-hockey team at the Sochi Winter Olympics, head coach Alois Hadamczik told reporters on Monday.

Nominated for his fifth Olympics, the 41-year-old Jagr is the only player on the 25-man roster who won the surprise Olympic gold at Nagano 1998.

Besides Jagr, who has had 13 goals and 21 assists in 43 NHL games this season, the roster with an average age of 29.8 years comprises fellow Devil Patrik Elias and Montreal Canadiens center Tomas Plekanec, the team captain.

Jagr is not the oldest man on the team as Hadamczik also picked Petr Nedved, a

former NHL player who at 42 now represents Czech top flight side Liberec.

The Czechs have to do without their top rising star, 20-year-old Tomas Hertl of the San Jose Sharks, who has been ruled out with a knee injury.

The Czechs begin the Olympic tournament against Sweden on February 12.

Roster: Goaltenders: Ondrej Pavelec (Winnipeg Jets), Jakub Kovar (Ekaterinburg/RUS), Alexander Salak (St. Petersburg/RUS)

Defensemen: Michal Barinka (Vitkovice/CZE), Radko Gudas (Tampa Bay Lightning), Tomas Kaberle (Kladno/CZE), Lukas Krizek (Dinamo Minsk/BLR), Zbynek Michalek (Phoenix Coyotes), Michal Rozsival (Chicago Blackhawks), Ladislav Smid (Calgary Flames), Marek Zidlicky (New Jersey Devils)

Forwards: Roman Cervenka (St. Petersburg/RUS), Patrik Elias (New Jersey Devils), Michael Frolik (Winnipeg Jets), Martin Hanzal (Phoenix Coyotes), Ales Hemsky (Edmonton Oilers), Jaromir Jagr (New Jersey Devils), David Krejci (Boston Bruins), Milan Michalek (Ottawa Senators), Petr Nedved (Liberec/CZE), Jiri Novotny (Lev Praha/CZE), Ondrej Palat (Tampa Bay Lightning), Tomas Plekanec (Montreal Canadiens), Vladimir Sobotka (St. Louis Blues), Jakub Voracek (Philadelphia Flyers)

It's official! Charlie Strong is Texas' new head coach



UNITED STATES, AUSTIN : AUSTIN, TX - JANUARY 6: University of Texas president Bill Powers, left and athletic director Steve Patterson, right, introduce new Longhorns head football coach Charlie Strong from Louisville during a press conference January 6, 2014 at Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin, Texas. In a statement released by the school Sunday, Strong said he was excited to be taking over one of the "premier programs" in the country. "Texas is one of those places that is always on your radar and a program anyone would dream of being a part of because you have a chance to compete on a national level every year," Strong said. "It's special because it has such great history, pride, tradition and passion for football." In the 53-year-old Strong - the first black head coach of a men's program at Texas - new athletic director Steve Patterson landed a coach whose teams went 23-3 the last two years, including a BCS bowl win over Florida and a blowout of Miami to end the 2013 season in the Russell Athletic Bowl. (Getty Images/AFP)

Postponed Mexico game shifted to Minneapolis

NEW YORK (AFP) - The National Basketball Association has rescheduled last month's Mexico City contest between San Antonio and Minnesota to Minneapolis, the league announced on Monday.

The teams were scheduled to square off at Mexico City

Arena on December 4, but a pregame generator malfunction that led to a fire inside the venue caused the contest to be called off.

The game will now take place on April 8 at the Timberwolves' Target Center arena on a day when both teams are off.

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Rousseff says Brazil will meet Cup challenges

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff on Monday insisted her giant nation would pull off a successful World Cup, swatting aside FIFA criticism that the hosts started preparing late.

"We love football and so we shall proudly receive the Cup and make it the Cup of Cups," Rousseff insisted on her Twitter feed.

"Demand for tickets is the biggest there has been for any Cup and that shows fans across the world have confidence in Brazil," she added.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter, in an interview published Sunday in Switzerland, chided Brazil for being slow to start preparations for its first World Cup since 1950.

"Brazil has come to realize that they started too late. They are the country who are the most delayed (in terms of World Cup organization) since I have been at FIFA," Blatter told Swiss newspaper 24 Hours.

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Chargers continue surprising playoff run

CINCINNATI (AFP) - San Diego, who snuck into the playoffs on the final day of the regular season, took advantage of three second-half turnovers from Andy Dalton to upset Cincinnati 27-10 on Sunday.

And in the National Conference wild card game, the San Francisco 49ers used a 33-yard field goal as time ran out to edge the Green Bay Packers 23-20.

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers played mistake-free ball in his team's surprising wild card round victory, which allows San Diego to advance to the next round where they will face the top-seeded Broncos in Denver.

Rivers threw for a modest 123 yards but connected with Ladarius Green for the go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter that began a run of 20 unanswered points for the Chargers.

The loss was the first at home all season for the Bengals, whose post-season misery continues. Cincinnati has not won a playoff contest since 1991.

Dalton's game took a turn for the worse when it started

snowing at Paul Brown Stadium on Sunday. The Bengals' quarterback threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

The Chargers had everything go their way in week 17, as the Bengals beat the Baltimore Ravens, the New York Jets beat the Miami Dolphins and they upended the Kansas City Chiefs in overtime to claim the AFC's final wild card spot.

The Chargers struggled on offense in the second quarter Sunday, failing to even gain a first down.

But San Diego took a 14-10 lead with 6:46 remaining in the third by using a combination of passes and runs during a 10-play, 80-yard drive.

Ronnie Brown help seal the victory with a late 58-yard touchdown run for the Chargers.

San Francisco kicker Phil Dawson booted a 33-yard field goal as time expired to lift the 49ers to a win over the host Packers in frigid winter conditions at Lambeau Field.

It marked the second consecutive season the 49ers eliminated the Packers in playoffs.

"It worked out for us," 49er quarterback Colin Kaepernick said.

Green Bay kicker Mason Crosby drilled a game-tying 24-yard field goal with just over five minutes to play.

That set the stage for Kaepernick to go to work as he utilized his passing and running game to move San Francisco down the field.

The versatile Kaepernick converted a third-and-10 from his own 31 with a 17-yard strike to Michael Crabtree before running 11 yards to the Green Bay 27 with just over a minute remaining.

Frank Gore then carried the ball on the next three plays, including a three-yard drive that gave San Francisco a first down at the 17.

Following another Gore run, the 49ers let the clock run down before calling a timeout with two seconds left and then clinched it on Dawson's 33-yard boot.

The 49ers advance to play Carolina in the divisional round next Sunday.

"It is win or go home so everyone is going to leave it on the line," said San Francisco linebacker NaVorro Bowman.

Portugal pays final homage to Eusebio



Portugal, Lisbon : Officials display the coffin of Benfica football legend Eusebio da Silva Ferreira on the pitch of the Luz stadium in Lisbon on January 6, 2014. Tens of thousands of people paid final homage today to Portuguese footballing legend Eusebio, also known as the "Black Panther", whose death has sparked worldwide tributes. Eusebio da Silva Ferreira died of cardio-pulmonary arrest early on January 5, aged 71. (AFP PHOTO)